

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. -- James Monroe

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APRIL 20, 1942

U. S. Acts To Curb Spread Of Sedition

Arrest of Pelley Seen as Fore-runner of Campaign Against Seditious Publications

SCATTER NAZI PROPAGANDA

Seek to Turn Americans Against Government and to Undermine U. S. War Effort

There were many indications last week that the United States Department of Justice was beginning to tighten up on those who have been openly seeking to disrupt America from within. Late last month the first prosecutions against American citizens for sedition were ordered by the Department of Justice. Last week, one of the most outspoken critics of the war effort was arrested at Darien, Connecticut. William Dudley Pelley, who once boasted that he was "the first to come out openly and unabashedly for the policies of Adolf Hitler," was taken into custody by agents of the FBI.

In Washington, there were signs that others would be prosecuted for violating the sedition laws of the United States. Editors who have openly espoused the Axis cause, spread the doctrine of anti-Semitism, undertaken to disrupt the nation from within, were called before a grand jury. All these individuals and groups have been accused of being tools of Hitler and of spreading throughout the United States the propaganda which comes from Berlin, Tokyo, and Rome.

What Is Sedition?

What, exactly, is meant by sedition? As defined by the Espionage Act of 1917, which is still in force, the acts considered seditious are the following:

Whoever, when the United States is at war, shall willfully make or convey false reports or false statements with intent to interfere with the operation or success of the military or naval forces of the United States or to promote the success of its enemies and whoever, when the United States is at war, shall willfully cause or attempt to cause insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or refusal of duty, in the military or naval forces of the United States, or shall willfully obstruct the recruiting or enlistment service of the United States, to the injury of the service or of the United States, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than 20 years, or both.

An amendment passed in 1918 is even more specific in defining acts to be considered seditious in time of war. Among these acts which are considered unlawful the most important are as follows:

To willfully utter, print, write, or publish any disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive language about the form of government, the Constitution, the military or naval forces, the flag, or the uniform of the Army or Navy of the United States; any language intended to bring the foregoing into contempt, scorn, contumely, or disrepute; or any language intended to incite, provoke, or encourage resistance to the

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In the great tradition

KIRBY IN N. Y. POST

The Meaning of Bataan

By William Allen White in "The Emporia Gazette"

The United States armed forces have met a major defeat, the most terrible and humiliating that has come to them in the history of this Republic. Bataan is a blow to our pride. It will spell sorrow in our memory for a hundred years. Who is to blame? Is it the President? He did all he could to keep the peace. Even while the Japanese ships were sailing toward Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt made a personal appeal to the Emperor for peace. Our State Department for five years has been trying to keep the peace by diplomatic compromise. We have appeased imperial Japan to our own hurt—selling her scrap iron and oil, buying Japanese goods by the shipload to help Japan arm herself to overcome our own soldiers. We cannot blame the administration.

Was it Congress? For 20 years Congress has been struggling with the defense problem of the Pacific. Way back in Harding's day when the disarmament conference was called in Washington, we tried to curb the military party of Japan by treaty, which scrapped some of our own battleships. Far-seeing leaders in Congress have tried to increase the defenses of the Pacific. But by treaty we agreed not to fortify Guam. Japan agreed not to fortify her mandated islands but broke the agreement. If the Congress had tried to make an appropriation for the maintenance of an army of two hundred thousand men in the Philippines, the American people would have risen up in rage. We did not have more than a hundred thousand trained and well-equipped men under arms in this country. If we had tried to fortify Wake and our other Pacific islands, the American people would have overthrown Congress. The people believed in the unconquerable army of sheer righteousness in international relations.

Are the people then to blame for Bataan? The people of the United States believed Wilson when he led them to the war to end all wars. They thought, and the world was full of evidence to back them up, that humanity had come so far up in its evolutionary journey that mankind was ready to settle international differences by arbitration. We were philosophical pacifists. We believed in kindness. Our national policy boils down to the thesis that it pays to be decent. We tried it on the world. It has failed. We were to blame, if there is blame in trying to be kind and square, even generous to our neighbors and our rivals. If to adopt, in so far as it is practicable in human relations at home and abroad, some fair approximate of the Christian philosophy of mutual kindness as a rule of life—if that brings blame, we citizens of the United States are deeply and profoundly to blame. But, alas, when the time comes, we shall do it again and again and again. We shall try with all our hearts and with all our might to live in the world under some kind of an international Golden Rule. It may fail and fail and fail again. We may even again pay the price in bitter shame and deep humiliation. Bataan may come over and over.

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Is Japanese-Russian Clash Approaching?

Japan May Soon Move Against Soviet Far East to Relieve Pressure on Hitler

UNITED NATIONS ON ALERT

Japanese Move to North Would Alter War Strategy in Both European and Asiatic Areas

The whole world anxiously awaited last week the much-heralded spring offensive. Where would it be launched? Would Hitler move against Turkey and the Near East, hoping to join hands with his Japanese partner in India? Would he throw his mighty armies against the Soviets in a desperate attempt to put Russia out of the war? Or would the United Nations start an offensive of their own in Europe by attempting to invade the continent of Europe from the west? Credence was given to this latter view by the presence in London of the Chief of Staff of the United States Army, General George C. Marshall.

On the other side of the world, what form would the war take, with the resistance of the Filipino and American soldiers on Bataan Peninsula finally broken? Would Japan continue her drive to the south and take advantage of the confused situation in India by seeking to overrun that vast subcontinent? Or, is there a chance that Japan, having swept down through the southern Pacific, will try to digest her new conquests there and turn to her potential enemy in the North? Only time can answer these questions.

Russo-Japanese Clash?

There were several indications last week that the Japanese might next turn their attention northward and launch an attack against the Soviet Union. The premier of the Japanese puppet state of Manchukuo returned from Tokyo after holding important conferences with Japanese officials. Rumors flew fast and thick. It was said that he had been instructed to put the Manchukuoan borders, facing Soviet Siberia, in a state of readiness. Reports from other capitals also indicated last week that a clash between Japanese and Soviet armies in the Far East might form a part of the Axis spring offensive.

Whatever truth or fiction there may be to any of these reports and rumors, military observers have long regarded a Russo-Japanese clash as eventually inevitable. While their relations have been correct and cordial on the surface, there has long been a basic enmity between the two nations. Border clashes during the last dozen years have been frequent.

Japan's position with respect to the Soviet Union is today similar to Germany's last spring. Germany had made sweeping gains throughout Western Europe; had, in fact, brought

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War on Counterfeiters

COUNTERFEIT money costs the nation thousands of dollars every year. The loss, however, is not nearly so great as it was before the United States Secret Service enlisted the public's aid in detecting bogus coins and currency and in trapping persons guilty of passing counterfeits. Partly as a result of these efforts, the amount lost by victims of counterfeiting has dropped from an average of \$771,000 a year before 1936 to \$91,000 in 1941.

Despite this progress in stamping out the crime of counterfeiting, the Secret Service warns that the nation's vigilance must be increased, rather than relaxed. In an interview with a representative of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER a few days ago, Frank J. Wilson, chief of the service, pointed out that counterfeiting is one of the tricks employed by a Fifth Column.

Enemy agents within a country, he said, try to pass large amounts of bogus money in order to disrupt the money system. They hope to create fears and to arouse distrust of genuine currency, and if possible to cause a breakdown in the exchange of money. Hawaii has already experienced such an attempt by the Fifth Column in the present war, and the same danger exists within the United States.

The individual, therefore, is both serving the nation and guarding himself against losses when he learns how to tell good money from bad. Counterfeiters depend on the ignorance of their victims.

As part of its educational program, the Secret Service has prepared a special booklet called *Know Your Money*. Many social science classes are using it, along with movies on counterfeiting which the service furnishes free of charge. The same materials are also available to coin and stamp clubs. For the Secret Service is convinced by experience that young people are valuable partners in combating counterfeiting.

Detecting false money, the pamphlet makes clear, is not as difficult as it might seem. With study and practice, one can quickly spot the earmarks of the counterfeit coin or bill. Genuine money is the product of expert workmanship, and there is perfection in every intricate line and detail of good money. Counterfeiters may imitate the general appearance, but their product is gener-

ally of poor quality and contains mistakes in details. The pamphlet pictures a number of counterfeit bills which may be compared with genuine currency to reveal the former's imperfections.

The pamphlet also gives advice on what to do when a stranger offers a counterfeit bill. "Do not return it" is the first rule. Instead, try to delay the person without arousing his suspicions, and get in touch with the police. If he senses trouble and leaves, take down a thorough description for the use of the Secret Service, and get the tag numbers of his car if he is driving.

Not only does the pamphlet give other detailed facts about trapping counterfeiters, but it contains interesting and valuable information about money in general, and gives the story of our own monetary system. It tells something about the United States Treasury, of which the Secret Service is a part, and about the production of genuine money.

The pamphlet illustrates some of the tools used by money counterfeiters, and then tells of the production methods in the Bureau of Engraving. The comparison shows that no matter how hard counterfeiters try, they make mistakes which lead to their undoing.

In every respect, *Know Your Money* is so well prepared and illustrated that the National Education Association puts an unqualified stamp of approval on it for use in schools. Copies may be obtained at 10 cents each, from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

There are two 16 mm. sound films on money which may also be obtained by writing to the United States Secret Service, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C. One of these is "Know Your Money." It is both interesting and informative. The other film is "Making Money," which takes its audience on a trip through the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in the nation's capital, showing the way in which our paper money is produced. Both these films are available to schools free.

The task of tracking down counterfeiters is only one of the many duties entrusted to the U. S. Secret Service. One of its main responsibilities is that of protecting the President of the United States and his family. We shall describe other activities of the Service in later issues of the paper.



IN NEW ENGLAND the government has located one of its concentration camps for enemy aliens. Food and shelter standards are the same as those for the Army.

News from All Fronts

Plans for the voluntary registration of women between the ages of 18 and 65 are being seriously considered by the government. President Roosevelt, at a recent press conference, said the step may be necessary in order to find out what skills are available among women and how they might be employed in the war program.

Day before yesterday was the 167th anniversary of the famous ride by Paul Revere and William Dawes. It was on April 18, 1775, that they dashed through the countryside, rousing the Minute Men—the citizens who could report for military duty at a moment's notice. The Minute Men's stand the next day at the old North Bridge over Concord River is commemorated by the statue in Concord, Massachusetts, which is now widely pictured in connection with the war savings stamps and bonds campaign.

Men's clothes took the first trimming under war conservation orders, and now a ban has been placed on women's styles which consume an excessive amount of cloth. Among the frills ruled out are French cuffs, balloon sleeves, patch pockets of wool, and unnecessary pleating. The various restrictions are expected to make possible an annual saving of 100,000,000 yards of different types of fabrics.

Organized labor is sponsoring a new weekly radio program, called "Labor for Victory." It is heard every Saturday evening, from 10:15 to 10:30 p.m. Eastern War Time, over stations of the National Broadcasting Company. News comments and interviews with labor leaders, government officials, and war production workers make up the programs, with the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations in charge on alternating weeks.

Junior Red Cross members will make sets of games for the use of American soldiers who visit Red Cross clubs in Britain, North Ireland, and Australia. The first order is for 2,500 games, built according to plans

prepared by Junior Red Cross units in Chicago.

All construction is now under rigid controls laid down by the War Production Board. Importance to the war effort is the yardstick by which all building must be measured, and the orders apply as much to some government projects as to residential construction. Army, Navy, Coast Guard, and Maritime Commission construction jobs are chief among the exempted projects.

Latest employment figures show an increase in the national labor force from 52,600,000 in February to 54,000,000 in March. Total number of persons working increased from 48,600,000 to 50,400,000, leaving 3,600,000 unemployed.

President Roosevelt revealed a few days ago that a flotilla of inexpensive wooden barges may be built to carry freight along the intracoastal waterway which fringes the Atlantic coast. By making use of bays, inlets, and sounds, the route avoids the U-boat menace. If the plan goes through, old shipyards in Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts which were once famous for their wooden schooners will come to life again, working on the barges.

Britain is reported to be camouflaging her submarines to match the colors of the waters in which they operate. To deceive low-flying enemy planes, submarines in the Atlantic are painted blue; in the Mediterranean, gray; and in the China Sea, black.



SECRET SERVICE CHIEF, Frank J. Wilson, looks over some counterfeit money which has come into the government's hands.

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Seeing South America... xxv

BRAZIL is, without doubt, one of the richest nations in the world potentially. The resources are such as to maintain a population greater than that of the United States, though the present population of Brazil is about a third of ours. It will, of course, not be an easy matter to realize Brazilian possibilities.

The great crop of Brazil at present is coffee. But coffee production in Brazil, like cotton production in the



Walter E. Myer

United States, cannot be extended much further. During the depression years, production had to be curtailed. Great stocks of coffee were actually destroyed. Katherine Carr says in *The South American Primer*: "By 1931,

the problems of over-production and lessening world demand due to the depression, had become so serious that the government, using the money from foreign loans, bought up millions of bags of the poorer grades, and destroyed them, either by burning or by dumping at sea. The burning coffee made the air of Sao Paulo city smell like a demi-tasse, and the smoke hung like a cloud of doom." And coffee production, extensive as it is, cannot solve all of Brazil's problems, for, as Miss Carr says, "Brazil's entire coffee crop, far and away the most important of all her crops and amounting to two-thirds of the world's supply, is grown in an area about one-fourth the size of our state of Ohio."

Cotton Plantation

Cotton may be extensively raised in Brazil. As a matter of fact, there was a decided increase in cotton production during the depression years when the price of the American product was raised through the action of our government. It would be possible for the Brazilians to produce as much cotton as we do, but this would probably depress world prices, and make cotton a product of little value in Brazil as elsewhere throughout the world.

Other problems attend the extensive cultivation of this staple. Cotton cultivation is largely in the hands of the Japanese, who migrated in

great numbers to Brazil during the years following the First World War. There are now 150,000 of them in the country, but the Brazilians are alarmed at this influx of so many foreigners who cannot be assimilated. They do not like to see a great industry depending so heavily upon foreign labor, and a few years ago the immigration of Japanese was prohibited.

There is a problem about the disposal of cotton as well as the raising of it. While it was being cultivated by the Japanese, it was sold to the Germans. The Brazilians were obliged to take German goods in exchange. The result was that by 1938, they were buying more from Germany than from the United States. They know that if the Germans increase their business with the Brazilians, they also extend their influence over Brazil, and threaten her independence. Cotton production cannot be greatly extended in Brazil without competing sharply with the United States, which has always been Brazil's best customer, and without making Brazil increasingly dependent upon nations whose influence the Brazilians fear.

Brazilian Rubber

There is a possibility of great development in rubber production. A few years ago, as everyone knows, the world's rubber came from the Amazon forests. It was taken from trees growing wild. Then rubber trees were cultivated in plantations in the East Indies. These trees were better and the production was cheaper, so Brazil lost the world's market completely.

Now we are shut off, temporarily at least, from the East Indies and efforts are being made to develop plantations along the Amazon. Henry Ford is spending millions of dollars in this effort. It is definitely possible for us, after a few years, to be obtaining our rubber from Brazil, but that country will not engage in the stimulation of a rubber supply unless it can be assured that we will continue to obtain our rubber from Brazil when the war is over. Will we do that? Will we say to the Dutch and English of the East Indies that however the war comes out, even though we drive the Japanese away, we will not buy any more of their rubber—their chief source of wealth?

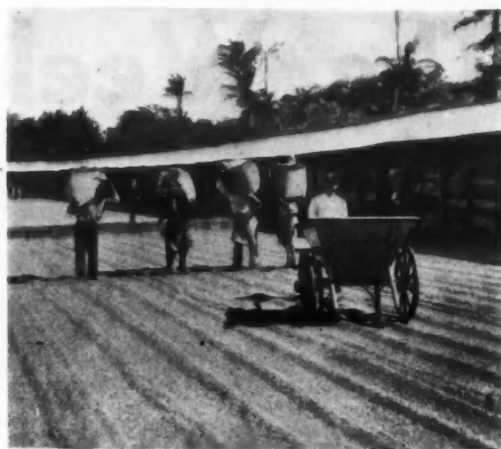
This is a problem for the United States as well as Brazil.

Brazil probably has the richest iron reserves in the world, and the ore is easily mined. But coal is lacking, and this will interfere with the manufacture of steel. The water power is extensive, and electricity, generated from this power, may ultimately be used in the smelting of iron, though electricity is not yet a good substitute for coal.

Despite the lack of coal, an effort is being made, with capital from the United States, to develop steel manufacturing. The Brazilian government requires that the management of the steel works be in the hands of Brazilians, but Americans are furnishing the capital and the engineers.

The Brazilians realize that they need foreign capital to develop their country, but they are determined that the foreign capitalists who come in shall not dominate the nation. That kind of thing has often been done. With foreign capital comes foreign control. How to get the capital while maintaining Brazilian independence, economic as well as political, is a problem.

Brazil also needs foreign labor. She would be more prosperous if there were lively immigration, but we have seen how immigration from



PAUL'S PHOTOS

Drying coffee on a fazenda near Sao Paulo

Japan presents difficulties, and so does immigration from Germany.

There are about three-quarters of a million Germans in Brazil now; that is, people who were born in Germany or whose parents or grandparents were. Most of them are concentrated in the southern part of Brazil, near Sao Paulo and Porto Alegre. Many of the older Germans are probably loyal to Brazil, but the younger men are inclined toward the Nazis and there are enough of them to constitute a dangerous Fifth Column.

Pronunciations

Vladivostok—vlah-di-vo-stok'
Kamchatka—kahn-chaht'kah
Osaka—oe-sah'kah
Petrovsk—pyeh-troe-pahv'lofsk
Nikolaevsk—nee-koe-lah'yefsk
Sakhalin—sah-kah-leen'
Cebu—seh-boo'
Sao Paulo—soun' pou'loo—ou as in out

SMILES

An old lady was taking her first trip on a train. When the conductor came through the car and called for tickets, she readily gave up hers. A few minutes later the train boy, coming through, called, "Chewing gum."

"Never," cried the old lady, bravely. "You can take my ticket, but not my gum."

—WALL STREET JOURNAL

Employer: "Have you any references?"

Applicant: "No, sir. I tore them up."

Employer: "That was a foolish thing to do."

Applicant: "You wouldn't think so if you had read them."

—PATHFINDER

"Are your father and mother in?"

"They was in, but they is out."

"They was in. They is out." Where's your grammar?"

"She's gone upstairs."

—TRANSIT NEWS

Missus: "I wish you would shave that mustache off, John. You look like Hitler."

Mister: "Don't worry, dear, the neighbors know I'm no dictator."

—SELECTED

A lady gave a moonlight party for 500 ostriches on a California beach. At a very late hour only 499 had shown up. Embarrassed by the rudeness of the 500th, all the others stuck their heads in the sand.

Presently the 500th came galloping up to the gathering, looked about, and asked, "Where is everybody?"

—READER'S DIGEST

"How much will you charge to alter the shape of my nose?" the woman asked a surgeon.

"One hundred dollars, madam."

"A hundred dollars!" she exclaimed. "Isn't there something less expensive?"

"Well," replied the surgeon, "you could try walking into a lamp post."

—LABOR

In accord with new regulations, we shall say nothing informative about the weather. In the meantime, is it

enough for you?

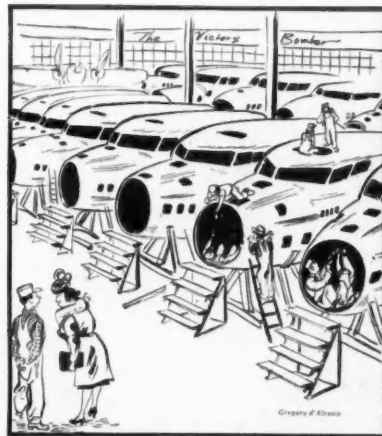
—DETROIT NEWS

The children were playing in Mrs. Smith's driveway. Suddenly she heard a windowpane crash, and hurried out only to find that all but little Mary Jane had run away.

"Mary Jane," said Mrs. Smith, "please tell me who broke the window."

"I didn't do it," replied the little girl, "and I'm not going to tell on Billy."

—SELECTED



"Can you tell me which one is made from the aluminum donation from Finchville, South Dakota?"

D'ALESSIO IN AMERICAN MAGAZINE

"In these hard times we should put a bride on our appetites."

"I would rather put a bit in my mouth."

—ANSWERS

"What are seasoned troops?" asked the bright young thing on her first visit to an Army camp.

To which the new recruit replied: "Oh, they're mustered by the sergeant and peppered by the enemy."

—WALL STREET JOURNAL

"Pop, what do they mean by a gentleman farmer?"

"A gentleman farmer, son, is one who seldom raises anything but his hat."

—CAPPER'S WEEKLY



A Japanese family in Brazil

WESSEL PHOTO

The Week at Home

Congress

Activities in Congress began picking up speed again last week, following an informal, two-week recess during which many members took the opportunity to visit their home states and districts.

The returning legislators found that a good many of the problems which they had left behind are now wrapped in a single package. Such questions as controls over wages, profits, and prices, and even the subject of taxes are being discussed in connection with plans to combat inflation. Before launching a debate, however, Congress waited for its cue from the administration, which was putting the finishing touches to a proposed program for curbing inflation.

Among the aftermaths of the Standard Oil case (see *THE AMERICAN OBSERVER* for last week) is an investigation which the Senate Patents Committee has under way. Last week it began hearings on proposals to adopt compulsory licensing of all patents required in the war effort. The war materials whose patent controls will be examined include magnesium, film, paraffin, dye stuffs, ammunition, zinc, plastics, various steel alloys, military optical goods, electrical equipment, Diesel engines, aircraft instruments, synthetic quinine, tin, synthetic rubber, and alcohol.

Labor Buries the Hatchet

Only one small cloud marred the labor horizon last week—the threat that John L. Lewis would walk out of the CIO with his powerful United Mine Workers and form a third labor group. For weeks there have been straws in the wind that such a move is in the offing; the recent resignation of six UMW men from high positions in the CIO is the latest indication.

Elsewhere the labor picture is bright. In Pittsburgh a few days ago occurred a remarkable demonstration of labor's new-found unity. Before an audience of 5,000 CIO and AFL members, Philip Murray and William Green spoke from the same platform in a joint pledge of uninterrupted war production. It was the first time since the CIO broke away from the AFL in 1935 that the heads of the two rival organizations have thus appeared together.

Meanwhile, in Detroit, representatives of the United Automobile Workers voted to waive double pay for Sundays and holidays, to accept overtime pay in war bonds if profits are restricted, and to refrain from strikes. They further urged that all war plants be operated 168 hours a week.

In Hawaii

Frank W. Morton, a teacher in the Waipahu High School on the island of Oahu, has written *THE AMERICAN OBSERVER* about some of the war activities undertaken by the students



THE MAIL COMES THROUGH to soldiers of the A. E. F. These are American soldiers in Northern Ireland receiving letters from the mailbag.

of that school. Because we agree with him that their work merits recognition, we print his letter in full. It follows:

The February 16th issue of *THE AMERICAN OBSERVER* reached us here on the slopes of Pearl Harbor about six weeks after publication, which is about as soon as we have learned to expect mainland mail since December 7th.

The article covering page 8, "Youth in the Food for Victory Program," reminded me of a student effort to help, here in Oahu, which has interested me as an exchange teacher from California and which, I think, being largely a movement on the part of Nisei, will equally interest your readers on the mainland.

Due to acute labor shortage, the sugar plantation at Waipahu appealed for student help. The proposal was put to the students that they give one week out of every four to work in the cane fields. The majority of them have been born and raised on the plantations and knew that the work would be tedious, tiring, and not very remunerative. But they voted nearly 100 per cent to do their bit. . . . Off they go by truck every morning, in weekly rotation by classes, to blister their hands and tire their backs hoeing the fields, while many of their classmates are working in well-

paid, full-time defense jobs and progressing scholastically at the same time in absentia.

If you can find space for this in the *OBSERVER* before the close of this school year, I think it would be a well-deserved recognition of the sacrifice these American boys and girls, the majority of them of Japanese ancestry, are making way out here in our Western outpost—that their willing work at a time of need be appreciated by their fellow citizens on the mainland.

Folk Festival

The Ninth National Folk Festival, in keeping with the times, will have soldiers, sailors, and marines on some of its programs, which will be staged in Washington from May 6 to 11.

As in past years, the festival will offer a variety of folk songs, music, and dances, performed by representatives of the many races, nationalities, and other groups in the nation. Indians will come from the Southwest, lumberjacks from the North, and cowboys from the West. Chi-

nese, Poles, French-Canadians, Filipinos, Swiss, Norwegians, Negroes, Finns—all these and many more will be represented.

Jones Defends Himself

Probably no other American citizen has received more blame for the current rubber shortage than has Jesse Jones. In the fall of 1940, certain government officials strongly urged that a synthetic rubber program be started immediately. As chairman of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, it was Jones' responsibility to make the loans to finance this program. Since little was done until the Japanese attack actually had cut off our rubber supply, many people hold Jones responsible for the shortage.



Jesse Jones

On three separate occasions Jones has appeared before congressional committees to defend himself. While admitting that he did not fully foresee the present situation, he argues that a synthetic rubber program was uneconomic as long as there were plentiful supplies of cheaper crude rubber. He could not persuade private businessmen to spend any of their money on the new plants, and he did not wish to sink large sums of the taxpayers' money in a wild-cat scheme. Jones points out, furthermore, that he did take steps to lay in a large stockpile of crude rubber. Unfortunately, says Mr. Jones, our Allies did not lay up adequate supplies and they have drawn heavily upon our reserves.

Consumer Pledges Signed by 300,000

More than 300,000 young people in schools all over the nation signed "The Consumer's Victory Pledge" which appeared in *THE AMERICAN OBSERVER* and other publications of the Civic Education Service a few weeks ago. The names of all the signers have been added to the National Honor Roll kept in the Consumer Division of the Office of Price Administration.

The government hopes that, in the next few weeks, thousands of additional young people will enlist in the drive to conserve materials needed for war production. Particularly we must conserve the materials which cannot be replaced easily, such as rubber, tin, and some of the metals used in making steel. To help overcome the shortage, we must collect all the usable scrap materials and get them into the hands of salvage dealers. Many schools have set up efficient organizations to do this.

The Consumer Division is eager to see this splendid start continued. One of the best ways in which students can do their part is to form Consumers' Victory Clubs to make everyone's efforts more effective. One of the clubs' first activities might be to lay out the entire community in districts, and then canvass each one systematically to secure the citizens' signatures on consumer pledges.

Blanks may be obtained from the School and College Staff in the Consumer Division, and should be returned there when signed.

Consumers' Victory Clubs might publicize their programs by enlisting the aid of local newspapers and radio stations. The school newspaper might also carry as a regular feature a "Consumer Column," with items about the program.

One of the best ways of driving home the need for full cooperation in the war against waste is to plan and carry out a "Consumer Week"

during any convenient period in the school year. Possible activities include intensive classroom study of consumers' problems, industrial arts projects showing how electrical appliances and other household articles may be kept in good condition and repair, and the preparation of posters and signs by art classes to publicize the program. Requests for assistance in planning consumers' programs should be addressed to the School and College Staff, Consumer Division, Office of Price Administration, Washington, D. C.

The Consumer's Victory Pledge

As a consumer, in the total defense of democracy, I will do my part to make my home, my community, my country ready, efficient, and strong.

*I will buy carefully
I will take good care of the things I have
I will waste nothing*

Signature.....

When you sign this pledge, you are joining the ranks of the millions of consumers cooperating in National Defense. Will you please sign it and send it to:

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STAFF
Consumer Division, Office of Price Administration
Washington, D. C.

For the convenience of Consumers Victory Clubs we are reprinting this pledge which has been signed by over 300,000 of our readers.

The Week Abroad

The Fronts

The fortress of Corregidor, at the entrance to Manila Bay, continued to hold out last week against fierce and almost continuous Japanese bombardment from the air. On another Philippine island, Cebu, small American and Filipino forces offered strong resistance to 12,000 invaders landed under the protection of a powerful fleet.

In Burma, where the legend-ivied city of Mandalay had been laid waste by enemy bombers, the Japanese extended their gains and pushed close to the country's oil fields. Chinese sources, however, hinted that American pilots may soon regain air superiority in this sector and so delay the enemy advance.

United Nations bombers, based in northern Australia, kept up effective air attacks upon Japanese positions on the island of New Guinea in order to forestall an attack from that sector.

German and Italian forces made a probing thrust into the British Libyan lines in what for a time seemed to be the start of a desert spring offensive. For undisclosed reasons, however, the armies under Marshal Erwin Rommel quickly withdrew from their advance positions.

The fighting in Russia showed no marked changes in the lines, but Moscow chalked up impressive air victories over the Nazis. In one three-day period alone, the Soviets claimed the destruction of over 300 Nazi aircraft. A Russian military observer went so far as to suggest that Russian superiority in the air may frustrate Hitler's schemes for a spring and summer offensive.

In London, Ernest Bevin, the labor minister, publicly announced that British plane production is now equivalent to that of Germany and that within the next month or so the United States alone will be making as many planes as Germany, Italy, and Japan combined.

New Cabinet in Bulgaria

As underground revolt threatened all across occupied Europe last week, opposition to Hitler flared briefly even within the boundaries of an Axis satellite—Bulgaria. In consequence,

Bulgaria's cabinet was forced out, and a new one created which promises to be more friendly to Axis plans.

It is Hitler's desire that Bulgaria participate more actively in the war, against Russia now, and perhaps later against Turkey. During King Boris' recent visit to Berlin, this wish was strongly expressed, and, according to reports, Boris promised that Bulgaria would send 200,000 troops to the Russian front.

When Boris returned home, however, he found divided opinion about the wisdom of such complete support for the Axis. A majority of the cabinet refused to approve Hitler's plan for the Balkan nation, and this split of opinion forced the cabinet resignation. Only Premier Bogdan Philoff and two of his former ministers remain in the new cabinet of Bulgaria.

Premier Philoff has promised that the new government will continue close cooperation with the Axis. How-

fleet totals nearly 6,000,000 tons. But more than half of these ships are usable only in home waters or in the China service. Thus, the losses she has sustained in the Southwest Pacific as a result of United Nations action cut substantially into her reserves. They are a promising indication of what Japan may have to cope with if we and our Allies are able to maintain this rate of successful attack upon her lines of communication.

It is estimated that Japanese shipyards have an annual capacity at present of only 400,000. At the current rate of losses, it would take them more than a year to replace what the United Nations have already sunk.

Caribbean Friendliness

Recent visitors to the Caribbean area have seen overwhelming evidence of a new, cordial attitude toward the United States. It is in



PORT DARWIN'S MAIN STREET before Japanese bombs began to fall. The northern Australian port is an important United Nations naval and air base.

ever, assurances were given that a friendly policy would be pursued toward Turkey.

Japanese Shipping

In the four and a half months of the Far Eastern war, the Japanese have lost about 500,000 tons of merchant shipping. This loss, in the opinion of maritime experts, represents about a fifth of all the tonnage available to Japan for offensive operations.

It is true that her entire merchant

pleasing contrast to the conditions existing there a few years ago, when this country was looked upon with fear and distrust, and was widely dubbed the "Colossus of the North" by the Caribbean nations.

This gradual reversal of attitude is due in large measure to the persistent "good neighbor policy" of the last decade. More recently, it was given great impetus by the war, and particularly by our entry into it. By December 13 our declarations of war had been followed by Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and all the Central American countries south of Mexico.

The new friendliness and cooperation is reflected on the one hand by the official acts of the ruling governments; for example, many of the countries have given us free permission to establish patrol bases for protection of the Panama Canal. The same cordial attitude is seen among the masses of the people, as they welcome the many American soldiers now in Central America. Not many years ago, even a suggestion that United States bases be established in Central America would have met cries of "Yankee imperialism" and "invasion."

Failure of a Mission

Sir Stafford Cripps was on his way back to England last week, his mission a failure. Through three weeks of unrelenting work, he had not hit upon a formula for Indian self-rule satisfactory to both India's leaders



"Here's mud in your eye!"

RUSSELL IN LOS ANGELES TIMES

and the British war cabinet. The negotiations broke down over two issues.

One was the insistence of Indian political chiefs that control of defense measures be placed in their hands. The other was the demand by the Congress party for the immediate creation of an Indian cabinet of unlimited powers.

Both proposals were unacceptable to the British. They were prepared to compromise to the point of giving India a voice in war decisions, but they felt that actual direction of the nation's defense could not be turned over to men who have had little or no military experience. On the political question, the British took the view that an Indian cabinet, made up largely of the majority Hindus and subject to no British veto, would not offer the Moslem and other minorities the protection to which they are entitled.

Though the question of India's future is now apt to be postponed for a long time, prominent Indians have indicated that they would do nothing that would embarrass the British in the struggle against Japan for control of India.

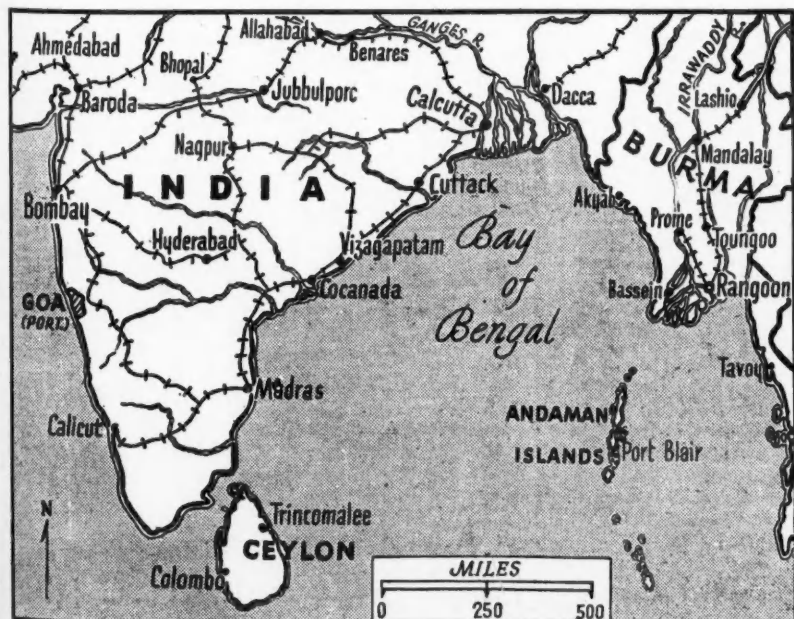
THE MEANING OF BATAAN

(Concluded from page 1)

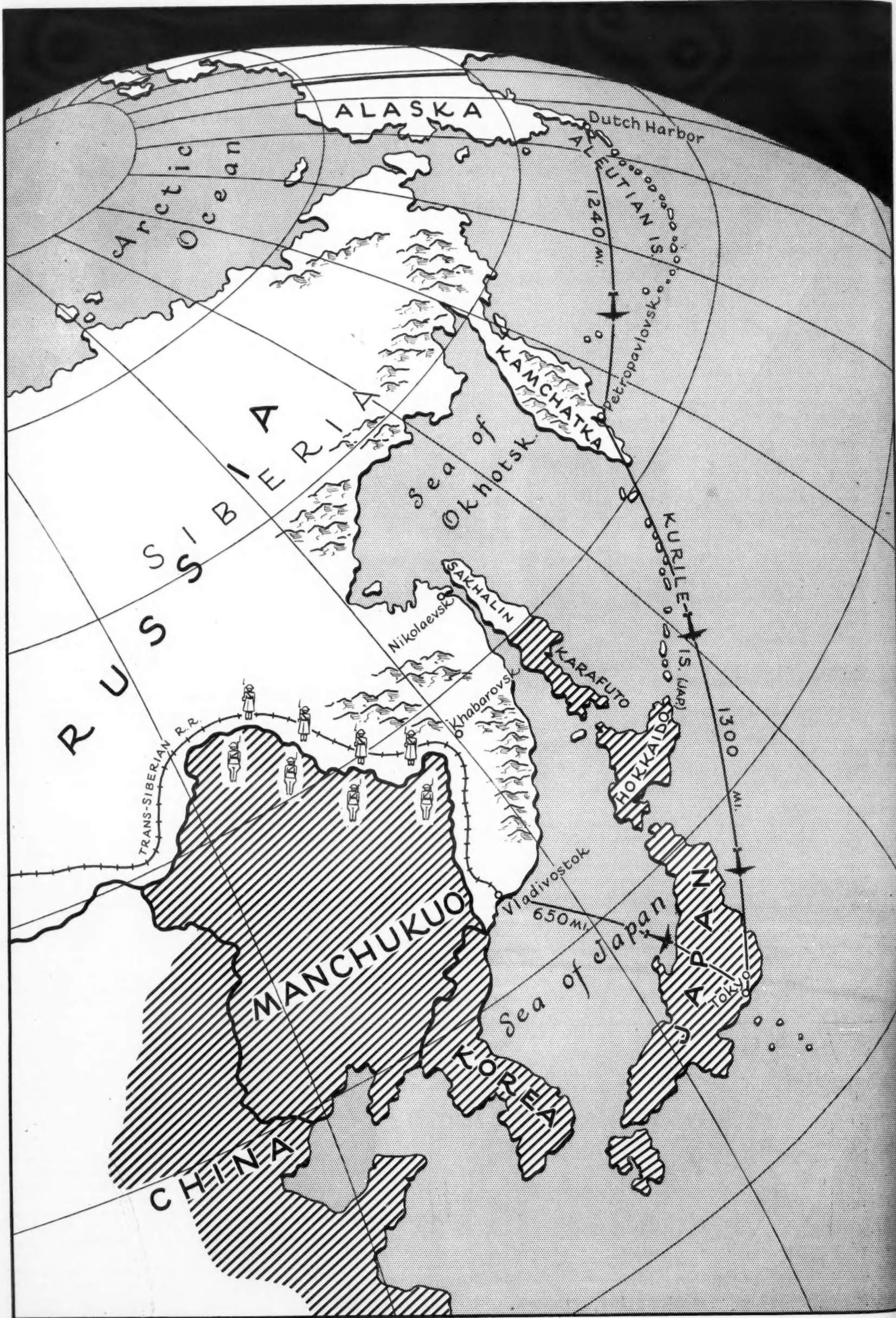
But finally our children's children's children will see among nations the establishment of human relations, national and international, which has made life in this republic enduring and in most areas just and fine and beautiful. We mourn Bataan today. Bataan with its humiliation and anguish is a sign that we tried to live in a world that was not ready for our philosophy. Our 36,000 soldiers are paying the price of our international neighborly policy. We, the people of the United States, are to blame, of course; not the Congress, not President Roosevelt, not our State Department; of all things not those brave soldiers who are facing death or worse than death in Bataan.

So let Americans mourn today in sorrow. Let us grieve but without remorse. For we, the people of the United States, we are to blame. And God helping us and cherishing us, we shall always be to blame for holding in our hearts a faith and a moving hope that taken by and large and on the whole, in the long run of the centuries, it pays to be kind.

We are still a Christian nation.



INDIA AND CEYLON are being made the subject of direct attack as Japan attempts to widen her area of conquests.



Is a Russo-Japanese Clash in the Offing?

(Concluded from page 1)

the entire continent under heel. Yet she did not feel secure with a powerful Soviet Union at her rear. Thus in June she launched her all-out attack against the Russians.

Japan's gains in the Southern Pacific have been comparable to those of Germany in Western Europe. She has overrun practically everything that came before her armies. Despite these gains, she cannot feel secure with powerful Soviet Armies standing on her northern borders.

There is considerable logic behind reports of a forthcoming Russo-Japanese clash. If Hitler could persuade the Japanese to attack Russia from the rear, it would greatly assist him in Europe. It would compel the Russians to fight on two fronts and the Russians would therefore suffer under the same handicaps as the Germans would if they were obliged to fight in Russia and in Western Europe at the same time.

Crucial Position

There is no doubt that Russia holds a crucial position in the war. Upon the fate of Russia may well depend the outcome of the entire Second World War. If the Soviets can be crushed, the Axis will be free to turn all its energies toward the United States and Great Britain.

If the Soviets are obliged to fight against Germany alone, they may be able to hold out indefinitely. Hitler may have persuaded the Japanese to attack in Siberia which would immeasurably increase the chances of defeating the vast sprawling Soviet Union. It is true that the Japanese, in agreeing to a joint venture of this kind, might have to call a temporary halt to their campaigns elsewhere, especially in the Southwest Pacific. But the advantages of having Russia out of the war are so great that they may outweigh every other consideration.

From the standpoint of the United Nations, a Russo-Japanese clash would hold disadvantages as well as advantages. Anything that weakens Russia in Europe would naturally prove a severe blow to the cause of the Allies, for the holding of the front in Europe is vital to their eventual victory. If Hitler should succeed in breaking through the Russian lines, the war might be prolonged for years. He would obtain



A view of the vitally located harbor of Vladivostok

SOVPHOTO

much-needed supplies and would be much more difficult to dislodge. It would prove much more difficult to lend support to the Russians in Europe. This would be the great disadvantage of such a campaign.

On the other hand, if Russia becomes involved in war with Japan, the United Nations will have bases from which they can launch attacks upon Japan directly. Air attacks could be launched upon Tokyo and the other great cities of the Japanese Empire.

Another advantage would be to weaken Japan in the Southwestern Pacific theater. It would undoubtedly forestall the Japanese invasion of India and would enable the Allies, under General MacArthur, to launch a counteroffensive against Japan.

Russia's Strength

How well prepared is Russia to withstand a Japanese attack? The answer to that question depends upon a number of unknown factors. For one thing, no one knows how many men and how much war material have been shifted from the Eastern to the Western front. Before the German assault in the West, Russia's Far Eastern armies were formidable. But the Siberian front has been considerably weakened in order to bolster the Western front.

The great military strength of Russia in the Far East centers largely in the area around Vladivostok, in the coast land that directly faces Japan, and in the far northern peninsula of Kamchatka.

Vladivostok is Russia's most powerful Pacific fortress, equipped to

wage war against Japan by land, sea, and air. The number of Soviet land forces stationed in this sector is, of course, a military secret. They are believed to be very considerable, sufficient to protect the base for a long time against any Japanese thrusts from Manchukuo. Great land batteries, camouflaged with all the skill which the Russians have in this art, are hidden in the hills upon which the port is built. The roads leading to Vladivostok through narrow mountain passages are heavily mined. The approaches to the harbor are protected with the newest devices.

Within a radius of 750 miles lie Japan's major naval bases and her heavy armament industries. Bombers based upon Vladivostok can, within a few hours, unload their deadly cargoes upon the matchbox houses of Tokyo, the docks of Yokohama, the war chimneys of Osaka. It is this possibility above all which must be giving the greatest concern to Tokyo's war lords. They cannot rest easy with the knowledge that in the past 20 years the Russians have built numerous airfields at the Vladivostok base and have hundreds of bombers hidden away in underground hangars for the critical moment.

If the Japanese did not strike out at the Russian Far East when they launched their attack against Britain and the United States, it was largely because they feared Soviet attacks upon their cities and industries. If, in the near future, they should carry their war to Russia, it will be to forestall the ever-present threat of air attacks upon their homeland.

Other Advantages

But Vladivostok is not merely an air base. It is also a first-class naval base, where the Russians keep their Far Eastern fleet, including over 100 submarines. Most supplies and reinforcements to Japan's far-ranging armies must be brought overseas from Japan itself. This is true of the armies stationed in Manchukuo no less than of those in Burma and New Guinea.

Thus, in the event of a clash with Russia, Japan will be faced with what may be a serious threat to her empire sea routes. Submarines and other naval units operating out of Vladivostok will no doubt try to draw a blockade around every large Japanese port. If this submarine campaign were to achieve nothing else, it would force the Japanese to withdraw some of their own naval strength from the Southwest Pacific,

thus greatly relieving the pressure upon the United Nations.

While the crux of Soviet power in the Far East lies in the neighborhood of Vladivostok, the Russians have other secondary bases, all of them designed to support a struggle against a Japanese foe. Of these, the one that is most likely to play an important role lies on the peninsula of Kamchatka. This peninsula is itself more than two-thirds the size of Japan proper, and it is almost in direct line between Japan and Alaska (see map on page 6), where United States military and naval bases are located.

The Kamchatka stronghold has been built at Petropavlovsk, several hundred miles up the peninsula's eastern coast. It is only 1,300 miles from Tokyo and 1,240 miles from the rapidly growing American outpost at Dutch Harbor in Alaska. This would make it possible for American bombers, starting from the Pacific coast and making use of Alaskan airfields, to reach Russian forces at Vladivostok by easy stages.

Base at Nikolaevsk

A third Russian base is located at Nikolaevsk, across the narrow strait which separates the mainland from the island of Sakhalin. About half this island is under the Japanese flag. But the northern and richer half, which produces a fair amount of oil, belongs to the Soviet Union. Russian naval and air forces based on Nikolaevsk would be charged with the task of breaking up any Japanese effort to seize northern Sakhalin.

From Nikolaevsk, moreover, the Russians could raid the Sea of Okhotsk, where the Japanese have found the most productive fishing grounds in the Far East. Fish is a staple food for the people of Japan, and scores of thousands of small vessels are engaged in supplying the home market. If the Japanese fishing craft should be driven from this sea, it would cause considerable hardship among the population of Japan.

The Japanese, needless to say, have matched these Russian military preparations with measures of their own. Whether they strike the first blow or stand on the defensive, their first efforts, at the outbreak of war, will be directed toward smashing these Russian bases. Failure to do so will expose the Japanese mainland to constant and serious assault. Hence it will be a race against time, with the advantage going to the side of the nation which gets off to the fastest start.



SOVPHOTO

KAMCHATKA, Russian peninsula in Siberia, is icy and mountainous. There are spots, however, which can serve as bases.

U. S. Strikes at Sedition

(Concluded from page 1)

United States, or to promote the cause of its enemies.

To willfully by utterance, writing, printing, publication, or language spoken, urge, incite, or advocate any curtailment of production in this country of any thing or things, product or products, necessary or essential to the prosecution of the war, with intent by such curtailment to cripple or hinder the United States in the prosecution of the war.

The law is thus specific in its provisions about sedition and in defining sedition. And the practice, in past wars, has been to deal vigorously with those citizens who make seditious statements or engaged in seditious acts. Abraham Lincoln was emphatic in his opinions on the subject, for he wrote in 1863:

Must I shoot a simple-minded soldier boy who deserts, while I must not touch a hair of a wily agitator who induces him to desert? This is none the less injurious when effected by getting a father, or brother, or friend into a public meeting, and there working upon his feelings till he is persuaded to write the soldier boy that he is fighting in a bad cause, for a wicked administration of a contemptible government, too weak to arrest and punish him if he shall desert. I think that, in such a case, to silence the agitator and save the boy is not only constitutional, but withal a great mercy.

World War Experience

During the World War, the sedition laws were rigidly enforced in this country. In fact, it is because many persons were dealt with harshly then, some of them perhaps unfairly, that great leniency has been practiced in the present war up to this time. There were nearly 2,000 cases of sedition during the First World War, nearly half of which resulted in convictions. Here are a few examples:



Father Charles E. Coughlin

On October 22, 1917, in Trenton, New Jersey, Frederick Krafft, former Socialist candidate for governor, was given a five-year sentence and fined \$10,000 for criticism of conscription in a street-corner speech.

In January 1918, in Des Moines, Iowa, D. T. Blodgett was sentenced to 20 years for circulating a leaflet opposing re-election of congressmen who had voted for conscription.

On July 20, 1918, in Los Angeles, L. N. Legendre was sentenced to two years for saying: "This is a war fostered by Morgan and the rich."

On August 13, 1918, in Tacoma, Washington, W. H. Kaufman was given five years for allegedly remarking: "Liberty bonds are a disgrace to America" and "America was buncoed into the war by munitions makers."

There are today in America hundreds of individuals and dozens of publications of one kind or another which are making utterances far more seditious than those quoted above. Pelley's magazine *The Galilean*, for example, made the following statement two months after Pearl Harbor: "The typical American gloats when any of the Axis powers reports success abroad—even against our own forces."

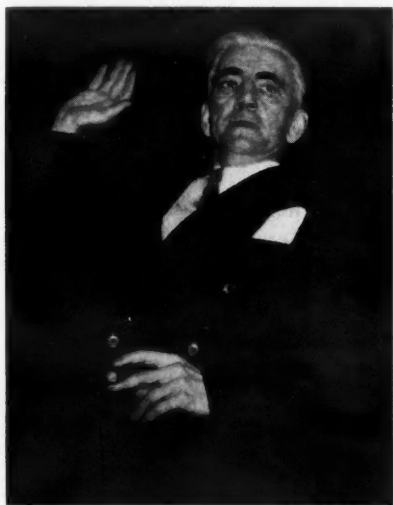
George W. Christians, founder of the Crusader White Shirts, was arrested for sending to officers in the Army a communication containing these questions: "What are we fighting for? Do we die for dollar domination? Do Germany, Italy, and Japan have the right to fight for freedom from our economic strangulation?"

Others Still Active

But Pelley and Christians and several others are in prison awaiting trial for sedition. There are many others who are still freely circulating their propaganda against the United States and its Allies, against the Jews, against the war. A number of the nation's leading newspapers, including the *Christian Science Monitor*, the *New York Post*, *PM*, and the *Washington Post*, and the magazine *Life*, have recently uncovered many of these individuals, groups, and publications.

The *Washington Post* last week cited headlines from a single issue of the paper *The X-Ray* (which, incidentally carries the slogans "Truthful," "Impartial," "Courageous," "Fearless," next to its heading): "Conscription of Women is Red Ratism," "And the Jews Killed Christ," "Hon. Wallace Springs to Defense of Red Rat Followers of Satan Exposed by Mr. Dies," "Hillman the Jew Labor Czar Accused," "Lady 'Elly' Sticks in the News," "Loud Mouth Jew Ickes Froths at the Mouth Under Publicity Beam."

But publications like *The X-Ray* and others which preach hate and which seek to bring about the defeat of the United States reach but a small proportion of the population. Perhaps the principal target of criticism is the magazine *Social Justice*, formerly owned by Charles E. Coughlin and now owned by his aged father and mother. *Social Justice* has continued its attacks upon the administration, the Jews, and other groups ever since the outbreak of war. This magazine has been a leader in spread-



William Dudley Pelley



—But the loyal citizen won't be blinded

ing anti-Semitic propaganda. It accuses the Jews of starting the war. It has openly sympathized with Japan's ambitions and has sought to divide the American people. Here is one of its recent statements:

"Some day when our soldier boys return they will drag from their hiding places the connivers, deceivers, plotters, and collaborators to mete out to them their just rewards. The longer we wait for that day, the severer will be the repercussions."

A Difficult Problem

The problem of sedition is one of the most difficult a democratic government has to deal with in time of war. Legitimate criticism of governmental policies is essential, even in time of war, to the successful functioning of democracy. How and where can the line be drawn between legitimate criticism and sedition? Claudius O. Johnson explains this difficulty in his *Government in the United States*:

Freedom of discussion is not easily maintained in normal times, but when real or imaginary public emergencies arise, when such freedom should be one of the most precious possessions of the people, there is still more difficulty in preserving it. The government cannot allow freedom of speech to interfere seriously with its recognized duty of keeping internal order and protecting the citizens against the aggressions of a foreign foe. The right of the individual to express himself comes into conflict with the duty of the government to protect and defend.

The task of drawing a fair dividing line between the two is one which has taxed the best minds of the country and the lines they have laid down have failed to meet anything like unanimous approval. It has been said that in a free country a man has a right to swing his arms, but that the right to swing them ends where the other man's nose begins. In like manner, he has freedom of speech; but that freedom must be limited when it becomes a danger to the peace and order of his country.

The present problem lies in distinguishing between the individuals, organizations, and publications which are actively working against the United States and those which are merely critical of certain of its policies. Many newspapers, for example, have been extremely vocal in their criticism of certain policies of the government, but their loyalty to the nation and their support of the war have never come into question.

There is always danger, in time of war, that if seditious statements, written or spoken, are allowed to continue, the people themselves will take action. Popular feeling always runs high in time of war and people who are sacrificing their lives and all they have for their country become understandably angered when others are allowed to work against the country.

Such was the experience of the United States during the First World War. There were numerous cases of hysteria which resulted in mob violence. In many of these cases, innocent people were made to suffer; people, for example, whose only crime was to have been of German extraction. Woodrow Wilson strongly deplored the spread of mob violence in a speech delivered in November 1917. He spoke of the "mob spirit" which has recently here and there very frequently shown its head among us, not in a single region, but in many and widely separated parts of the country." The war President continued:

Against Mob Violence

There have been many lynchings, and every one of them has been a blow at the heart of ordered law and humane justice. . . . We are at this very moment fighting lawless passion. Germany has outlawed herself among the nations because she has disregarded the sacred obligations of law and has made lynchings of her armies. Lynchings emulate her disgraceful example. . . .

We proudly claim to be the champions of democracy. . . . I say plainly that every American who takes part in the action of a mob or gives it any sort of countenance is no true son of this great democracy, but its betrayer. . . . How shall we commend democracy to the acceptance of other peoples if we disgrace our own by proving that it is, after all, no protection to the weak?

The intelligent citizen will try to keep his head during this period of crisis. If he knows of cases of sedition or treason, he will not try to curb them himself but will perform his duty by calling the matter to the attention of the proper authorities. Only in this way can we safeguard our democracy and prevent the innocent from suffering along with the guilty.

News Quiz of the Week

Sedition

1. What is meant by sedition, and what does the law provide with respect to sedition?
2. How were cases of sedition handled during the World War?
3. To what extent are people allowed to criticize the government in time of war?
4. Why has the Department of Justice been reluctant to take too drastic action against sedition in the present war?

Japan and Russia

1. Why would it be advantageous to Germany to have Japan attack Russia?
2. Where is Soviet Russia's strongest base in the Far East?
3. What is the strategic importance of the Kamchatka peninsula?
4. What effect would a Russo-Japanese clash be likely to have upon the United Nations?